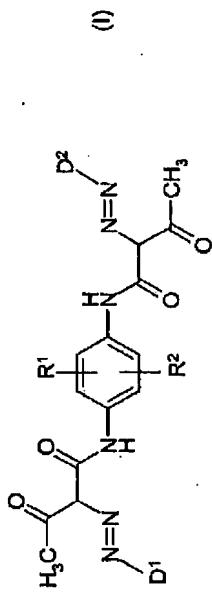


Amendment to the Application

1) (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₈ alkoxycarbonyl, nitro, cyano, phenoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl;

D¹ and D² are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazothione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazole, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]imidobone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 Identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in at least one organic solvent in the presence of a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal alkoxides, or in an aqueous solution containing the at least one organic solvent, at alkali pH ≥ 9.

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- 2) (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or trifluoromethyl.
- 3) (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aromatic heterocycle is a benzimidazolone, phthalimide, naphthalimide, quinazoline, quinazolinone, quinazolinedione, phthalazine, phthalazone, phthalazinedione, quinoxaline, quinoxalinone or quinoxalinedione.
- 4) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heterocycles D¹ and D² are unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, nitro, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl and trifluoromethyl.
- 5) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the azo coupling product is in the form of a presscake, granules or a powder.
- 6) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 1 to 50% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.
- 7) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of an alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a glycol, glycerol, a polyglycol, an ether, a glycol ether, a ketone, an aliphatic acid amide, a urea derivative, a cyclic carboxamide, an ester of an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid, a nitrile, an aliphatic, an aromatic or araliphatic hydrocarbon, an alkyl-, alkoxy-, nitro-, and/or halogen-substituted

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benzene, an aromatic heterocycle, hexamethylphosphoramide, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone; a sulfone, a sulfoxide; and mixtures thereof.

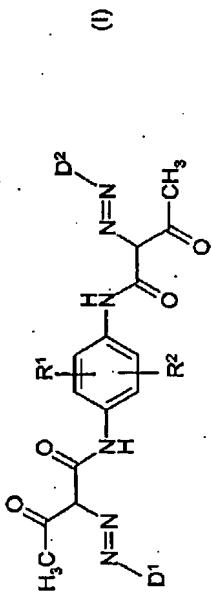
- 8) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is a C₁-C₈ alcohol, dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidone dimethylsulfoxide, or mixtures thereof.
- 9) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution contains from 2.5 to 95% by weight of the at least one organic solvent.
- 10) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step occurs at an alkali pH of greater than 9.5.
- 11) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 250°C.
- 12) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is carried out for a time of from 5 minutes to 96 hours.
- 13) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of adding an acid after the subjecting step at alkali pH.
- 14) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 2 to 20% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.
- 15) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 3 to 17.5% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

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phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in at least one organic solvent in the presence of a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal alkoxides.

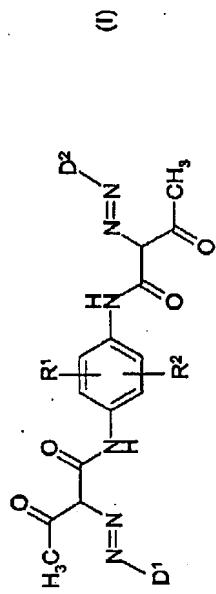
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,
 R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkoxy carbonyl, nitro, cyano, halo gen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;
 D¹ and D² are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzoxazolone, benzoxazoline, benzothiazolone, benzothiazoline, indazole, phthalimide,

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- 16) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, isobutanol, tert.-butanol or tert.-amyl alcohol, butyl glycol or a mixture thereof.
- 17) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution contains from 5 to 90% of the at least one organic solvent.
- 18) (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is carried out at a temperature of between 15° and 200°C.
- 19) (Cancelled)
- 20) (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,

R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_3 alkoxycarbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;

D^1 and D^2 are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazoles, benzimidazolethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine,

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naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazine, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 Identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (1).

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in an aqueous solution containing the at least one organic solvent, at alkal pH ≥ 9.

23. (Cancelled)